

Inquiries of the Ministry

has certainly been no formal exchange with the totality of the provinces.

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WELFARE**MEETING WITH TORONTO OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS WORKS PROJECTS TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEM OF COSTS**

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Has he made any appointment with the chairman of the Metro Toronto Council and the mayor of Toronto to discuss the question of the sharply rising costs of welfare and possible public works projects which, with federal participation, might alleviate that problem?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have not such a meeting envisaged at the present time. I am not sure whether I have been invited to participate in such a meeting.

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CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**PRERETIREMENT PLAN—DISPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUNDS**

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Can the minister report to the House any progress on the recovery from Devco of Unemployment Insurance Commission funds taken from the people in respect of the preretired miners?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. gentleman would refer his question directly to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion who is responsible in the House for Devco.

Mr. McGrath: He cannot do anything; he does not know anything about it.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, the Devco situation becomes more bewildering every day, more so to the government than to myself. If I have a question with respect to the Unemployment Insurance Commission, there is only one minister to whom it can be directed and that is the minister who has that responsibility.

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the hon. member has that right, but he is asking about Devco and Devco is not the Unemployment Insurance Commission. The Devco preretirement plan is a combination of UIC benefits and a supplementary sum of money advanced by Devco. I suggest to the hon. member that the question be referred to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion to see whether the increase by 10 per cent in unemployment insurance benefits will be taken into consideration by Devco in adjusting or not adjusting their supplement to unemployment insurance.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Mr. MacInnis: With Your Honour's permission, I will stay with the Minister of Labour. In that Devco has admitted publicly that they used coercion with respect to establishing this plan, will the minister make an effort to recover all the UIC funds which have been taken under duress?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I cannot accept that premise.

Mr. MacInnis: A further supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member cannot go on asking supplementaries. I believe he has already had two supplementaries. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for one further supplementary and perhaps we might then move on to another subject.

Mr. MacInnis: Probably a point of order would be more appropriate. The minister said he could not accept my premise. I ask the minister to read the evidence given before the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs at which time Devco admitted the use of coercion.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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FLOODS**NOVA SCOTIA—REQUEST FOR FUNDS TO REPAIR DAMAGE**

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): My question is for the Prime Minister. Will the Prime Minister indicate if the government has reached a decision regarding the request of Nova Scotia for flood relief? If so, what is the decision?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will have to inquire. The government has not reached such a decision. I am not even sure if I have received a request as of this date for such relief.

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LABOUR RELATIONS**DISPUTE BETWEEN HUDSON BAY MINING AND SMELTING COMPANY AND EMPLOYEES—PROVISION OF MEDIATOR**

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): My question is for the Minister of Labour. Has the minister received a request for a mediator, has a mediator been provided, and are there any developments in the dispute between the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company and the union, involving approximately 2,500 employees?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, there has been no official request yet from either management or labour or management and labour together for a mediator in that dispute. I would hope that both management and labour would understand the terrible economic hardships that are being imposed on that particular town because of their lack of understanding of each other's position and their responsibility to the com-